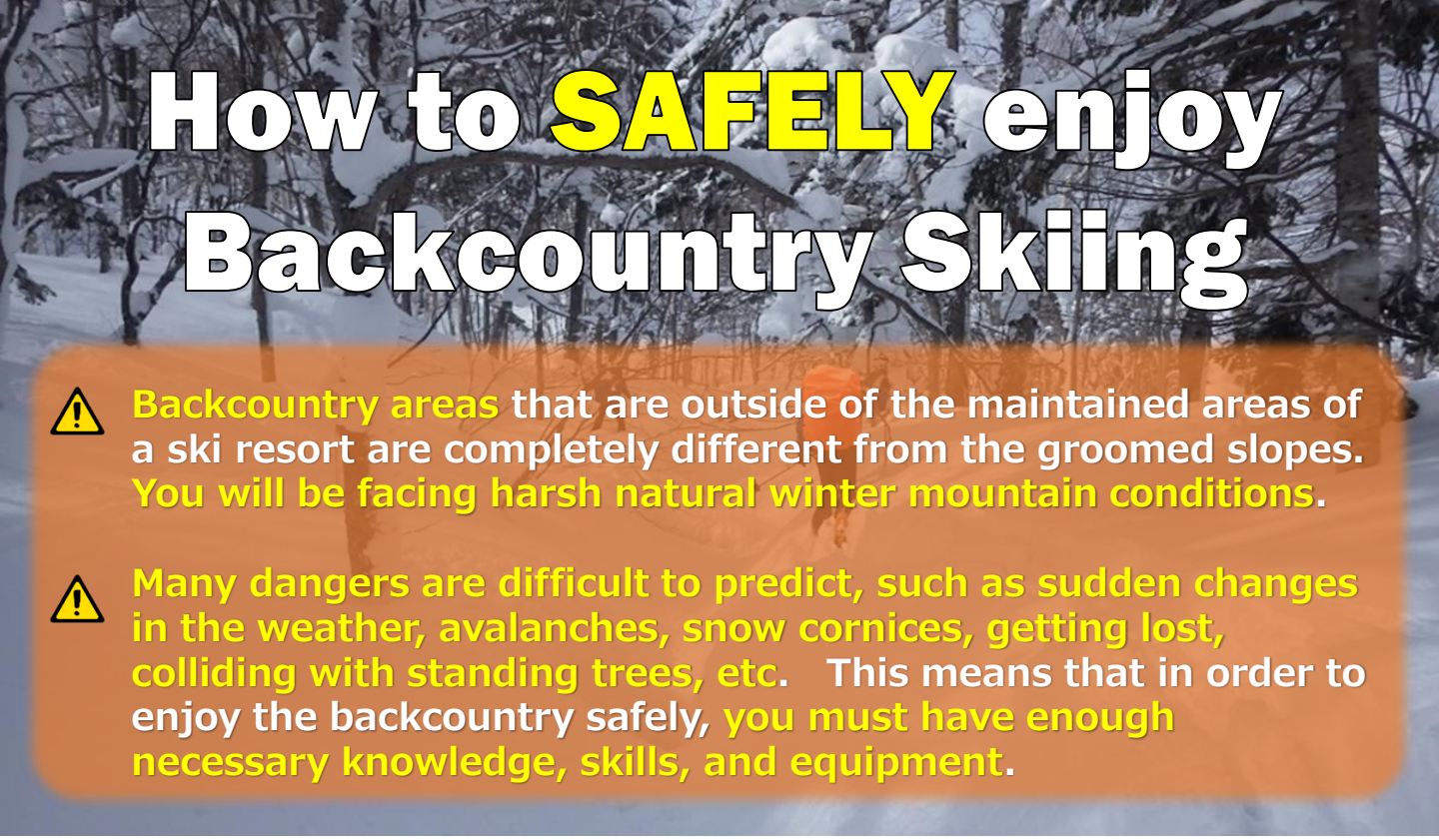

How to SAFELY enjoy Backcountry Skiing

⚠ **Backcountry areas** that are outside of the maintained areas of a ski resort are completely different from the groomed slopes. **You will be facing harsh natural winter mountain conditions.**

⚠ **Many dangers are difficult to predict, such as sudden changes in the weather, avalanches, snow cornices, getting lost, colliding with standing trees, etc.** This means that in order to enjoy the backcountry safely, **you must have enough necessary knowledge, skills, and equipment.**

Check the weather and topography

- ☐ Are you up to date with the latest weather forecasts and avalanche information?
- ☐ Does your skill and physical strength match your planned route?

Check your winter mountain equipment

- ☐ Do you have beacons, probes, and shovels?
- ☐ Do you have a GPS that allows you to check your current position?
- ☐ Do you have a mobile phone and a mobile battery?

Safety Management

Submit a TOZAN-TODOKE

Hokkaido Police Compass

- ☐ Have you told your family or friends where you're going? Always submit a climbing plan (TOZAN-TODOKE).
- ☐ Move in groups. If you are inexperienced, use a guide.
- ☐ Observe the rules of the ski resort.
- ☐ Note that if you call for rescue, you may be charged a high amount for search fees, and rescue may not be possible if the weather conditions are poor.

Hokkaido Government and
Hokkaido Prefecture Association for the Prevention of Mountain Accidents

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